

Initial: 10/14/09
Reviewed/revised:
Revision:

**MILWAUKEE COUNTY EMS  
SPECIAL OPERATIONS  
TEMS - CARE OF THE**

Approved by: Ronald Pirrallo, MD, MHSA  
J. Marc Liu, MD, MPH

Page 1 of 2

**PATIENT IN THE TACTICAL SETTING**

**POLICY:** All Tactical EMS (TEMS) providers must operate with an awareness of the tactical situation. The first priority is maintaining the safety and security of TEMS providers, law enforcement officers, other team members, and patients. The second priority is to support the completion of the mission. General operating procedures are described below.

**I. General Issues**

**A. Area of operations**

1. No TEMS provider is to enter the designated "hot zone", nor engage in direct tactical operations
2. TEMS providers will operate in the "warm zone" as allowed by local department policies and procedures (the local law enforcement agency will have responsibility for providing security for TEMS providers)
3. TEMS providers may operate in the "cold zone" as needed

**B. Maintaining security**

1. TEMS providers will always maintain a vigilant defensive posture
2. Primary responsibility for area/scene security rests with the law enforcement agency
3. TEMS providers will follow the tactical instructions of law enforcement officers
4. When not involved with patient care, TEMS providers may, at the team's discretion, assist by observing the area for potential threats, and communicating with law enforcement officers

**C. Weapons**

1. All TEMS providers will remain alert to detect any weapons carried by a patient
2. If weapons are detected, the TEMS provider will contact a law enforcement officer to remove them
3. TEMS providers are not to handle weapons unless there is an immediate danger to the safety of team members or the patient
4. If handling of a weapon is unavoidable, the provider will use universal precautions in handling weapons, will adhere to the standard Milwaukee County EMS operational policy on Potential Crime Scenes, and will contact a law enforcement officer immediately to take possession of the weapon

**II. Patient care**

- A. TEMS providers must pay the utmost attention to the safety of team members
- B. TEMS providers must not deliver care if doing so will jeopardize the safety of themselves or other team members
- C. All patients are to be disarmed by law enforcement before delivery of care, except in extreme circumstances
- D. TEMS providers will adhere to Milwaukee County EMS policies, procedures, and protocols when caring for patients
- E. Suspects and bystanders as patients
  1. All suspects and bystanders must be disarmed by law enforcement before care is rendered
  2. TEMS providers will contact a law enforcement officer when needed to secure a patient or weapons

Initial: 10/14/09
Reviewed/revised:
Revision:

**MILWAUKEE COUNTY EMS  
SPECIAL OPERATIONS  
TEMS - CARE OF THE**

Approved by: Ronald Pirrallo, MD, MHSA  
J. Marc Liu, MD, MPH

Page 2 of 2

**PATIENT IN THE TACTICAL SETTING**

F. Team members as patients

1. Except in extreme circumstances, all team members are to be disarmed by law enforcement officers before delivery of care by TEMS providers
2. An armed team member must be disarmed if any of the following occur in the patient
  - a. Confusion, disorientation, or loss of consciousness
  - b. Systolic blood pressure less than 100
  - c. Loss of radial pulse
3. TEMS providers will contact a law enforcement officer when needed to restrain a team member and/or secure weapons